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For Immediate Release

## Registration is now open for PHFA's May statewide housing conference

*Keynote speakers are scholar Dr. Andre Perry and former NFL star LeSean McCoy*

**HARRISBURG, PA** – The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's Housing Forum planned for early May includes two exceptional keynote speakers, 23 educational sessions, a bus tour of a new, local tiny house village, and plenty of networking opportunities.

Housing professionals may now register for the May 1-2 conference to be held at the Hilton in downtown Harrisburg.

"We've been planning this conference for the past two years, and in planning it we drew heavily on the feedback provided after our last Housing Forum," said PHFA Executive Director and CEO Robin Wiessmann. "What makes this conference special is not just the breadth of housing topics covered but also the tone of the event, which is always congenial and fun – certainly not stuffy at all!"

The opening keynote speaker on day one will be Andre Perry, Ph.D. Dr. Perry is a senior fellow at Brookings Metro, a scholar-in-residence at American University, and a professor of practice of economics at Washington University. A nationally known and respected commentator on race, structural inequality, and education, Perry is the author of the book "Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America's Black Cities."

The keynote speaker on the second day of the conference will be former NFL star running back LeSean McCoy. A two-time Super Bowl champion, McCoy remains one of the top NFL running backs from the last decade. He is best known in Pennsylvania for his many seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles, but later in his career he won Super Bowl rings with the Kansas City Chiefs and Tampa Bay Buccaneers. McCoy will talk about his pro football career, as well as his current endeavor of developing affordable housing in his hometown of Harrisburg.

Additionally, the 2024 PHFA Housing Forum offers other benefits for attendees, including:

- A wide variety of housing topics covered during 23 educational sessions;
- An awards ceremony recognizing some of the state's affordable housing innovators;
- An evening networking event for reconnecting with colleagues and meeting new business associates;
- A special "Meet and Greet" hour so attendees can get to know some of the PHFA staff with whom they interact but may never have met face-to-face;
- A vendor exhibit hall for learning about new housing-related products and services;
- A bus tour of a newly constructed tiny house village for homeless veterans in central Pennsylvania; and
- A walking tour of PHFA's Harrisburg office, which includes a new tower constructed to energy efficient Passive House and LEED Platinum standards.

Early bird pricing for the Housing Forum is only \$195 through April 1. After that date, registration increases to \$215. The price to attend the Forum on the opening day of the conference is \$275.

Detailed information about the 2024 Housing Forum and registration is available on the conference website: <https://housingforum.phfa.org/>. People with questions not answered on the website can email [events@phfaevents.org](mailto:events@phfaevents.org) for assistance.

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency works to provide affordable homeownership and rental housing options for older adults, low- and moderate-income families, and people with special housing needs. Through its carefully managed mortgage programs and investments in multifamily housing developments, PHFA also promotes economic development across the state. Since its creation by the legislature in 1972, it has generated more than \$17.9 billion of funding for more than 196,750 single-family home mortgage loans, helped fund the construction of 103,328 rental units, distributed approximately \$289 million to support local housing initiatives, and saved the homes of more than 50,860 families from foreclosure. PHFA programs and operations are funded primarily by the sale of securities and from fees paid by program users, not by public tax dollars. The agency is governed by a 14-member board.

**Media contact:**

Scott Elliott  
717-649-6522 (cell)  
sellott@phfa.org

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